

became executive director of the Arca Foundation, which gives grants to civic groups, organizations that study the media, and public policy groups.

She helped lead the fight to pass the Violence Against Women Act, providing comprehensive funding to shelter and offer services to victims of domestic violence and their children.

The Washington Post has called her "bright" and "tough-minded" and recently said: "Poised, persistent and principled, she would make a fine representative for the fourth district" of Maryland.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, Leader BOEHNER, our majority leader and the dean of our delegation of the great State of Maryland, our Senators, BARBARA MIKULSKI and BEN CARDIN, thank you. I'm so glad that you could be here today, and to our entire delegation from Maryland, I am humbled and honored to be here in the people's House. And I want to thank my mother, Mary, and my sisters, Janice, Bonnie and Rhonda, my brother, Michael, and my son, Jared, for being here with me today and being so supportive of me.

As I swore to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States, I recall the oath that my brother, John, took when he was just 18 years old, joining the United States Air Force at the height of the Vietnam War. And most especially I thought of my father, John Edwards, who swore the same oath when he joined the United States Air Force as a young man and served in a career of great honor, dignity and service to this country.

And what I thought is that I am so proud to be able to take that same oath to serve the people of the Fourth Congressional District and to serve the United States Congress and the people of this country.

I'm standing here today on a very historic day, Juneteenth. And as the first African American woman to represent the great State of Maryland here in this Capitol and on the shoulders of all of our forefathers and foremothers who took that journey to freedom, I am so proud and humble to be here with my constituents throughout the Fourth Congressional District, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, united across race, religion, class, income, heritage and culture and all of the things that are the false lines that divide us. But we're united as a congressional district, and we're as united as we can be as a country. And in some micro way, in our Fourth Congressional District, I think that we're fulfilling the dream of this entire Nation.

Last February in Maryland's Fourth District, we sent a strong message that it's time for a change across the Potomac and up to this Hill. And this past Tuesday, they sent another message. They said "change can't wait until next year." And so today I'm an agent of change and an agent of their mandate. And America's profile, though slightly tarnished around the world

and with our economy teetering slightly here at home, we can only hope that we don't wait for that change to happen until next January, that my constituents have said to me, we can't wait for change to begin. We can't wait 6 months to do something about foreclosures forcing thousands of Marylanders, thousands of people across this country and in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties away from their homes. And we can't wait 6 months to address skyrocketing costs of gas and groceries while we engage in short-term solutions that abound without focusing on the long-term solutions for alternative energy and things that really will propel us through this 21st century.

I just want to say in closing that our brave servicemen and women, many of them like my brother and my father, can't wait for change either. And people do need help now. And so, more than anything else, I want to join with you in making that change happen. I know that this House is filled with an awfully lot of really good-hearted people who represent congressional districts just like mine across the country. And they're asking us to come together. And I want us to answer that call together. And so I'm here with my sleeves rolled up, and I'm ready to work. And I'm ready to get started, just as you are, in serving the people of the Fourth Congressional District and this country.

Thank you very much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), the whole number of the House is 435.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. JORDAN OF OHIO

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. In its present form, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Jordan of Ohio moves to recommit the bill (H.R. 5781) to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the bill back to the House promptly in the form to which it may be perfected at the time of this motion with the following amendments:

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 2(a)(3) of the bill, insert at the end the following:

"(7) An employee who is a father and who is not in compliance with a court ordered child support arrangement shall not be eligible for any paid leave under paragraph (2)."

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 3(a)(3) of the bill, insert at the end the following:

"(5) EXCLUSION OF DEADBEAT DADS.—An employee who is a father and who is not in compliance with a court ordered child support arrangement shall not be eligible for any paid leave under this subsection."

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 4 of the bill, insert at the end the following:

"(E) EXCLUSION OF DEADBEAT DADS.—An employee who is a father and who is not in compliance with a court ordered child support arrangement shall not be eligible for any paid leave under this paragraph."

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the motion to recommit be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

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Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer this motion to recommit with instructions.

This motion to recommit is simple and straightforward, one of these important issues that I think we can all agree on, and, frankly, an issue I would have brought as an amendment in committee if I had thought about the idea then. It says that people who are not compliant with their court-ordered child support arrangements, deadbeat dads, are not eligible for the expanded Federal benefits included in the bill.

This motion sends a clear message to the American people that we have respect for their hard-earned tax dollars they send to Washington, DC. The underlying bill, however, sends a far different message about the priorities of the majority party in Congress.

Think about it: American families are paying more than \$4 a gallon for gasoline, but are we acting to bring more energy to this country? America faces unprecedented terrorist threats from abroad, but are we renewing legislation to help better secure the homeland? Are we addressing out-of-control Federal spending? Are we acting to better secure our borders? We are approaching a \$10 trillion national debt, a problem that threatens our Nation's economic future, but are we cutting spending or reforming the out-of-control earmark process?

Here is what Congress is doing, Mr. Speaker. Congress is spending its time and energy on H.R. 5781, a bill to give Federal bureaucrats, including deadbeat dads, a new handout, a vast expansion to the already generous benefits package they receive at the expense of